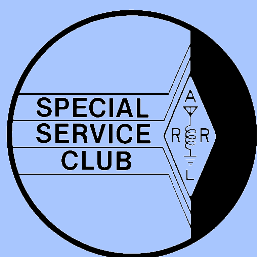




The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: **Second Tuesday** of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night except Saturday @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:00 PM on 146.64.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the **First Tuesday** of each month.
- On the **fourth Tuesday** of every month, in-person meeting at Ridge Road Baptist Church where there will be project tables, demos, snacks, and socializing.



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Interested in helping? Visit
<https://www.rars.org/public-service.php>

frequently for our 2022 ham public service schedule.

RARS General Meeting

Main Topic: Principal Events 2023

By: NCQP, Marty Young, W4MY

RARSfest, Nancy Torborg, KB2TNR

Field Day, Curt Phillips, W4CP

Date: February 14, 2023

Time: Meeting at 7:30 PM, informal gathering at 7PM on Zoom.

RARS In Person Meeting

Date: February 28, 2023

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church

Time: 7:00 PM

On the fourth Tuesday of every month. In-person meeting at Ridge Road Baptist Church where there will be project tables, demos, snacks, and socializing.

RARS Officers

PRESIDENT

John Honeycutt
N8ZU
919.417.2477
jfh49@bellsouth.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Chuck Till
K4RGN
k4rgn@arrl.net

SECRETARY

Mark Kilmer
KM4JRH
919.676.0110
mark.kilmer@gmail.com

TREASURER

Greg Seamster
KE4PAX
919.859.0029
KE4PAX@arrl.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Regular dues for licensed amateurs are \$18 per year. (From July 1 through June 30.) Additional licensed immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed full time students and licensed seniors 60 and over are \$12 per year. Unlicensed individuals may become associate members for \$9 per year. Applications for membership are available from the treasurer or on the RARS web site.

<https://www.rars.org>

Exciter

The Exciter is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The Exciter welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's Exciter is the Saturday that is ten days before the general meeting. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Tom Lewis, N4TL, editor (editor@rars.org)

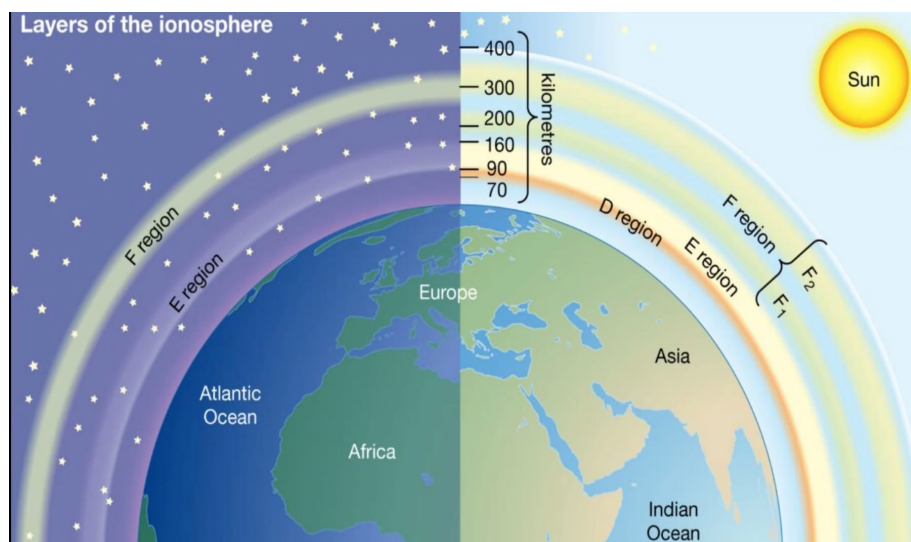
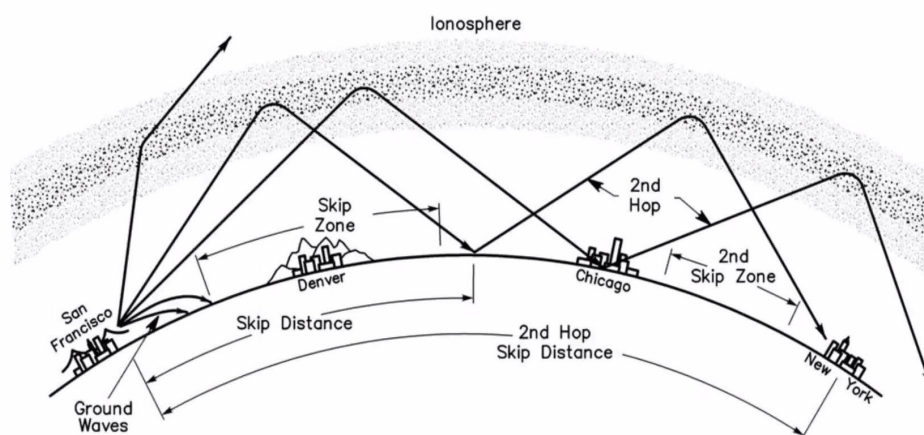
January 10, 2023 RARS meeting

The meeting was held on Zoom. Many members connected from 7PM on. President John Honeycutt, N8ZU, ran the formal part of the meeting. The presentation was

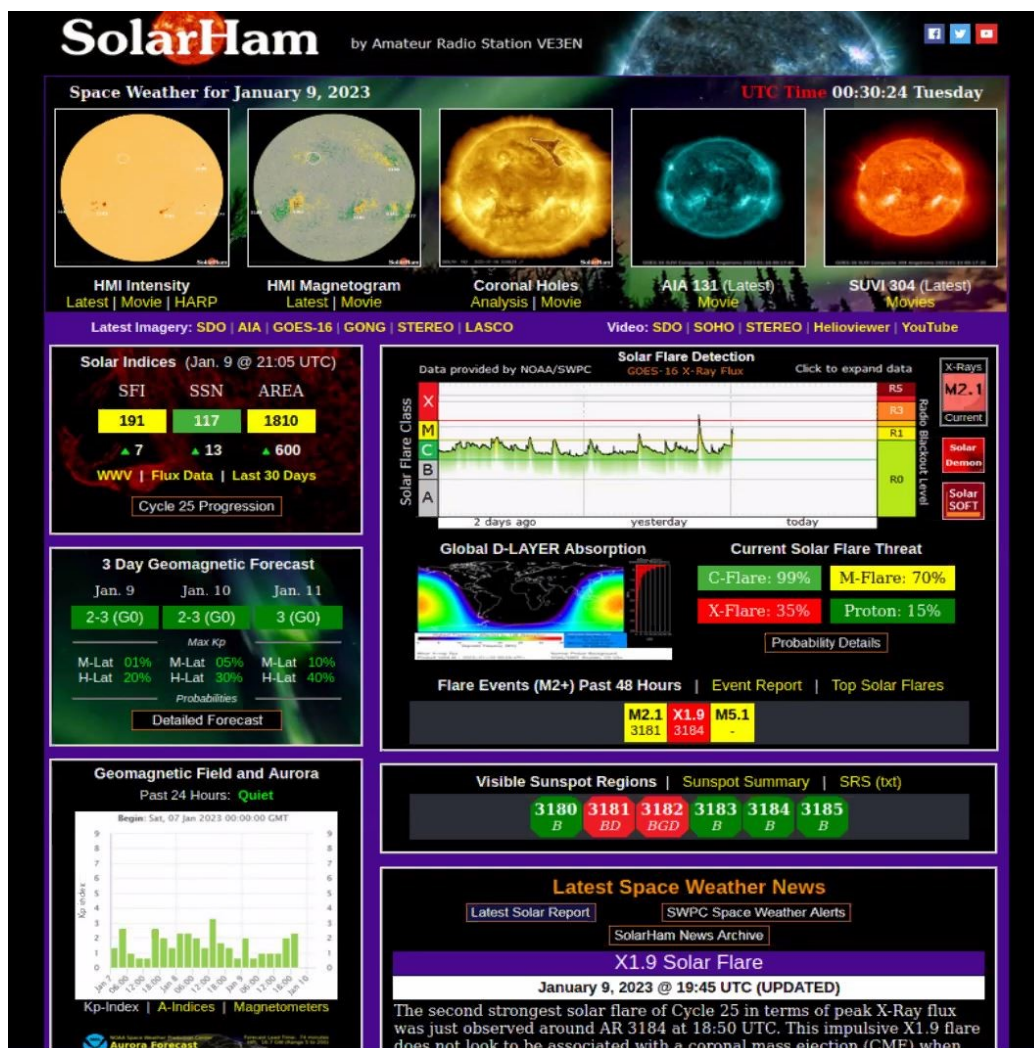
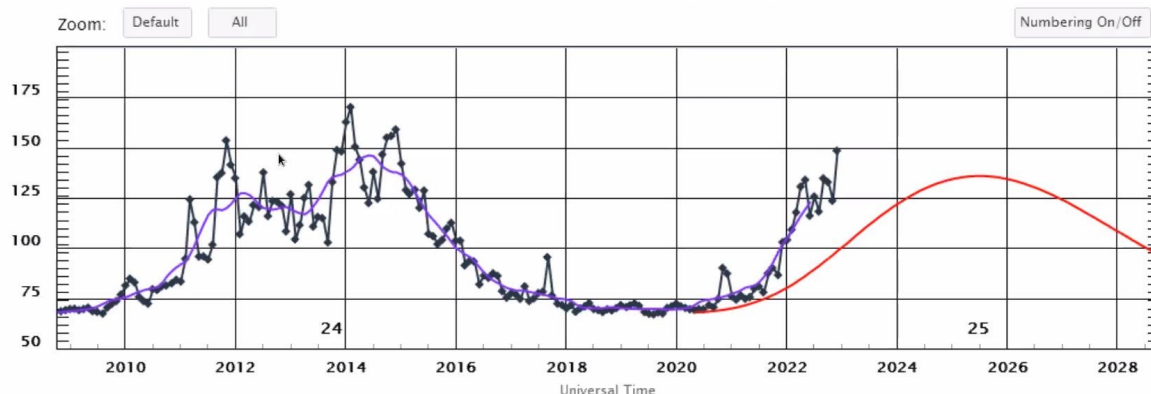
"A Radio Astronomer's View of Propagation" Presented by Dr. Kerry Kingham, [WA4BQM](https://www.rars.org/members/4BQM)

The presentation is on the RARS website.

Here are a few screen captures done during the meeting.



ISES Solar Cycle F10.7cm Radio Flux Progression



January 10, 2023 RARS meeting

62 people attended

 Tom N4TL Raleigh (Me)		 Ken Latchum AD4GX Raleigh
 Chuck K4RGN Raleigh (Host)	 Daryl KX4WY Raleigh	 Larry K4LXV Raleigh
 Greg - KE4PAX - Raleigh (Co-host)	 David K4DME Emporia, Va	 Leila KO4ZTR
 WA4BQM - Kerry VA (Co-host)	 Dean KM4WRO Raleigh	 Mary KG4OQA Durham, NC
 John Honeycutt N8ZU Raleigh	 dennis wz0q Raleigh	 Mike KN4DRN Durham
 KB2TNR Nancy Torborg: Raleigh	 Denny O KO4IBL Raleigh	 Mike Salmi, AE4IM Fuquay
 Phone	 Doug AD4UL, Melbourne, FL	 Nick KI4QHM
 Bruce W8TWT Raleigh	 Doug N3LTV Raleigh NC	 Paul KO4PZA North Raleigh
 Al Sutton	 Ernie NC4EW Oak Ridge	 Richard K7RLH Apex
 Alan AB4OZ RALEIGH	 Gary KQ4BTC	 Richard Kroeger N1FUA Apex
 Ben Davis KN4RFT	 George Dolicker, N2GXC	 roger k4klk Raleigh
 Bob K4RLC	 Hank Montgomery	 Ryan - N7RYN Apex
 Bob, W4GIA, Raleigh NC	 Jen KO4WIA Cary	 sam KN4RWI
 Brian Young KA9QJT Raleigh	 Jerry KE4TTS Cary, NC	 Stephen Haffly NY4NC Wake F..
 Carl W8WZ, New Orleans, LA	 Jim W1XR	 Tom KQ4FKQ Cary
 Charles - WA4OSS	 Joe KM4WRQ	 Tom NC4TS Florida
 Charles WB4DCM Raleigh	 Joe N4BJH Wake Forest	 Tony K1OC - Apex
 Charley KE4QBW Raleigh	 K4ACS-Smitty/Raleigh NC	 Tyler KO4BZA
 Chuck, K4HF - Raleigh	 K4BYN Louis	 W4WHW
 Cliff KA7NSU Cary	 KB2TNR Nancy Torborg: Raleigh	 Will KQ4CDN Durham
 Daniel - KD4UNIX - Apex	 KE4IHX - Al. Roxboro	 Bruce W8TWT, Raleigh

Monthly In-Person RARS Gathering

January 24th 2023

A few pictures from Nancy KB2TNR



Pictures from Nancy KB2TNR Torborg
32 visitors signed in.

Fourth Tuesday RARS Monthly Event Continued



Pictures from Nancy
KB2TNR Torborg



Monthly In-Person RARS Gathering

Next RARS Gathering and License Exam on February 28

Ridge Road Baptist Church, at [2011 Ridge Road, Raleigh](#)

Part show-and-tell, part maker faire, part operating event, the RARS Gathering is the event to attend if you want to find out about the local ham community, meet other ham radio operators, see hands on demos of old and new ham radio equipment, get on the air, and exchange ideas in a fun forum. Members and non-members are welcome.

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, but we start setting up at 6:00 pm, and you are welcome to bring your own ham radio equipment and projects to demonstrate, show off, or just work on with other like-minded hams -- we have plenty of tables. You might also find sources of coax, connectors, zip cord, Powerpoles®, and whatnot.

QSL Card Sorting Help, Feb 28 at RARS Gathering

Krish, W4VKU has asked for help sorting about 500 QSL cards. He has QSL cards for these stations.

VU7AG, VU7KP, Lakshadweep Islands

VU4CB, VU4K, VU4KV, Nicobar and Andaman Islands

8Q7KP. Maldives Islands

They are all going to the ARRL outgoing QSL bureau. The bureau requires this sorting.

Presort your DX QSLs alphabetically by parent call sign prefix (AP, CE, DL, ES, EZ, F, G, JA, LY, PY, UN, YL, 5N, 9Y, and so on). Canadian and Australian cards should be sorted by numerical call sign (VE1, VE2, VE3 and VK1, VK2, VK3, etc). Note: Some countries have a parent prefix and use additional prefixes, i.e. G (parent prefix) = M, 2E, 2I, 2M, 2W, etc. When sorting countries that have multiple prefixes, keep that country's prefixes grouped with the parent prefix in your alphabetical stack. Addresses are not required. Do not separate the country prefixes by use of paper clips, rubber bands, slips of paper, or envelopes. This only slows down processing.

Krish will bring the cards to the RARS gathering February 28th. Please come and help sort cards. It will not take long if we have enough people.



NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY 2023

Mark your calendars..... February 26, 2023

Contest Duration..... 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST

Complete information, rules, special events, bonuses, etc. can be found on our website

www.ncqsoparty.org

and on our Facebook Groups Page:

[NCQP Facebook Groups](#)

We encourage everyone to join our Facebook Group for the very latest, up to the minute information about the QSO Party.

We will have six bonus stations on the air for NCQP 2023. They will constitute the event's Spelling Bee: N4W N4R N4I N4G N4H N4T

We are honoring the 120th anniversary of the Wright Brother's first flight.

Station N4W will be operating from the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kitty Hawk. Station N4T will be operating from the Battleship North Carolina moored in Wilmington.

QSO's with each bonus station are worth 50 bonus points. A clean sweep of all six will earn you an additional 200 bonus points for a possible 500 total. "Clean Sweepers" will also receive a special certificate of achievement.

We are making a special effort to encourage mobile operations and are expecting a lot of action from our road warriors. We have 100 counties to cover in N.C.

In 2022, the NCQP received 554 Logs and recorded 57,608 QSO's

Spread the word. Get on the air. You'll find plenty of action. The NC QSO Party continues to grow rapidly and is definitely an enjoyable event.

73 and GL

RARSfest™

Saturday, April 8, 2023 8am-3pm

Good afternoon!

I'm Nancy Torborg, your Chair for RARSfest 2023.

Tony K1OC has done a fantastic job on the website, and it's constantly being updated. If you haven't already, go to rarsfest.org to personally subscribe to our newsletter. Please feel free to spread the word via nets too!

Check our website www.rarsfest.org on January 30th to purchase tickets, and to read about all the features that make RARSfest™ unique!

Ticket prices for individuals will be \$10 before April 1st, \$12 at the door.

Flea Market tables will be \$23 before April 1st, \$27 at the door. Flea market table purchase requires an individual admission ticket, sold separately.

NO PHYSICAL TICKETS WILL BE MAILED THIS YEAR! You will pick up pre-orders at "Will Call". Your email confirmation can be printed out or shown at the door for entry.

New for 2023:

We will be accepting credit/debit cards and Apple Pay, in addition to PayPal and checks Download the form [here](#))! Those purchasing tickets before April 1st will be entered into a special raffle drawing for \$100 cash!

RARSfest features:

- Dealers of new equipment
- Over 230+ flea market tables
- Forums
- VE testing
- Cash door prizes
- Equipment demonstrations

All in a single climate-controlled space, **all on one day!** There's nothing like it *anywhere!*

Nancy KB2TNR Torborg

RARSFest 2023 Chair

rarsfest@rars.org

<https://www.rars.org>

Future RARS Meeting Topics

Titles, topics, and speakers **subject to change.**

Date	Topic	Presenter
2/14/2023	Principal Events 2023	Marty, Nancy, and Curt
3/14/2023	The future of radio spectrum	Jon Siverling WB3ERA of the ARRL staff
4/11/2023	Repeater Update	Chuck DeCourt, W3WZN Danny Hampton, K4ITL

During the Zoom meetings please keep
your microphone muted.

Please edit your name so your
Name, Call and Location are shown.

January 2023 RARS Net Report

Thirty one 2m nets: 440 checkins, 786 minutes

One 10m net: 14 checkins, 30 minutes

73 Julie Royster, KT4JR

RARS Member Birthdays

Rick	KN4ORA	02/01
Mike	N4IQA	02/01
Sue	W2GHK	02/02
Selene	KG4RMT	02/03
LOS	AF0AA	02/03
David	K4DBZ	02/04
Grady	KJ4RZU	02/05
Artie	KC2JFU	02/05
Craig	N4WVW	02/06
Kevin	K0KRK	02/07
Larry	N4LEW	02/07
Bryan	KJ4GWZ	02/08
Cliff	KA7NSU	02/10
Tom	N4TL	02/13
Dennis	WZ0Q	02/13
Tony	K1OC	02/14
Roy	KT4EM	02/15
Kathy	N4KLW	02/15
Dick	WW4NC	02/16
Duncan	KQ4ABW	02/16
Dave	KK4ELT	02/16
Wallace	KO4SKA	02/17
Warren	WM2Z	02/18

Howard	N4KYW	02/19
Roger	K4KDX	02/20
Joe	N1LVN	02/21
Nadia	KO4ADV	02/21
Israel	N4ZVU	02/21
Tony	WW4TCH	02/23
Pedro	KN4MJR	02/23
Joe	W4TTO	02/25
Carl	W8WZ	02/26
Bob	WX4MMM	02/26
Bruce	W8TWT	02/27
Mary	KG4OQA	02/28
Kathleen	KM4CSF	02/28

New Members

Brian Phelps	KQ4FJS
Jen London	KO4WIA
Tom Karches	KQ4FKQ
Nick Julius	KI4QHM
Rusty Adams	KQ4CAN



HAM RADIO LUNCHEON

Everyone is welcome!

Every Thursday at 11:15 AM, New York Diner,
909 McKnight Drive Knightdale.

<https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkDinerNC>

Check the latest information on the AB4OZ QRZ entry. [QRZ.COM](https://www.qrz.com).

RARS Contagious Diseases Policy

“The Raleigh Amateur Society asks that any person to know that they have COVID 19, or other contagious diseases, refrain from attending any in-person RARS event until they are no longer contagious.”

RARS Membership links

Use the following link to verify / update your membership profile.

<https://www.rars.org/userprofile.php>

Use the following link to renew your membership.

https://www.rars.org/membership_renewal.php

Free AB4OZ Hamfest, Weather permitting

The free AB4OZ Hamfest will be Saturday, March 4, 2023. Setup at 9AM. Start time is 10AM. New location, Golden Corral Restaurant rear parking lot. 3551 Grenelle street, Raleigh NC 27603.

Check the latest information here [QRZ.COM](https://www.qrz.com).

Other Hamfests, Charlotte March 10, 11, Raleigh April 8; Winston Salem April 15.

<https://www.rars.org>

RARS Monthly Supper, IHOP Restaurant

All members and guests are welcome to the monthly (first Tuesday) RARS Supper, 6:30PM, at the IHOP Restaurant, 7471 Six Forks Road, Raleigh. The restaurant is on the corner of Sawmill and Six Forks Roads. After entering the restaurant and lobby, move to the left to the glass window enclosed private room. Informal and Dutch, just bring your appetite and best rag to chew.

73, Chuck, K4HF

We'll see you in Charlotte for the
**Antique Radio &
Phonograph Expo**
MARCH 23 - 25
Airport Sheraton
3315 Scott Futrell Dr.
Charlotte NC
Radios - Phonographs - Parts
Records - HiFi - Tubes
Vintage Electronics
*Plus seminars, a huge flea
market and auction!*
More info at www.cc-awa.club

Click here to goto the website www.cc-awa.club

Best DX 1922

Copied from the AWAGroup reflector. Posted by Lou VE3AWA.

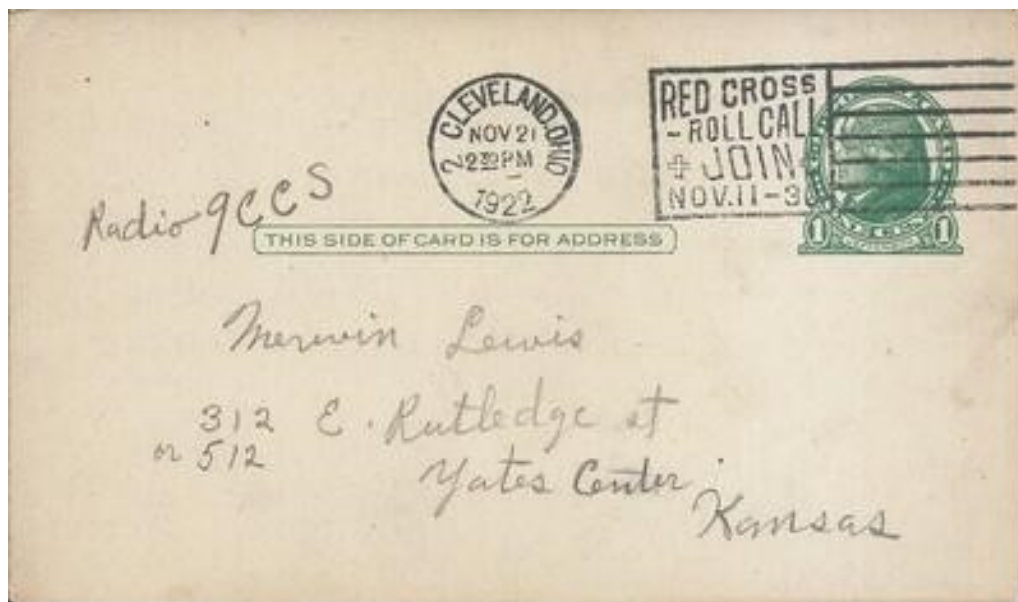
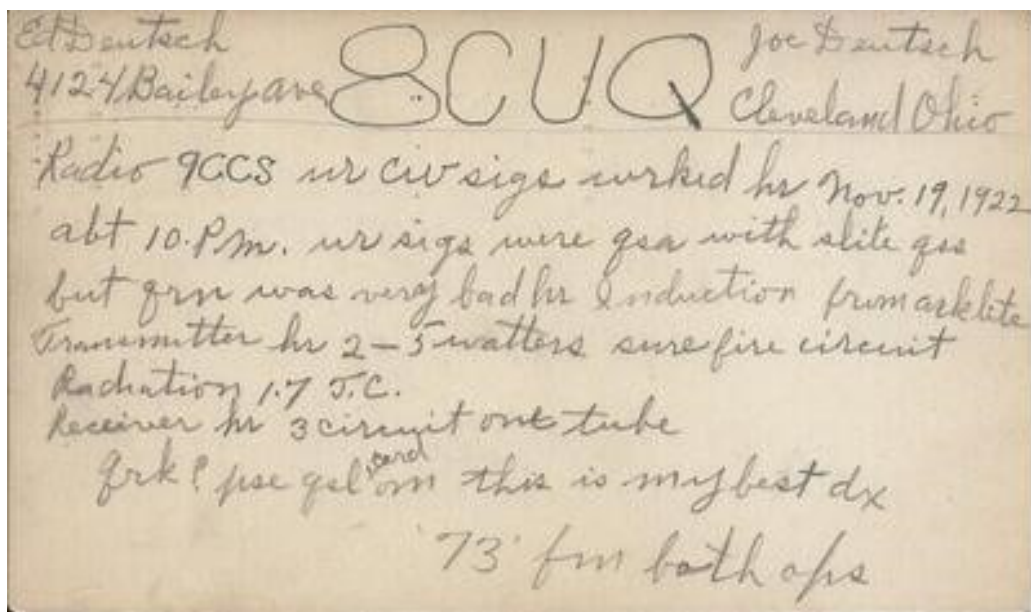
1922 Penny post card front and back. QSL post card sent by 8CUQ to 9CCS. Ohio to Kansas. The card is hard to read. Here is part of it.

Radio 9CCS ur CW sigs wrked hr Nov 19, 1922 abt 10 PM. ... but qrm was very bad hr.

Transmitter hr 2—5 watts.....

.....this is my best dx.

919 miles.



Portable Operating Group: Winter Field Day

by Brantley West K4CBW

The RARS Portable Operating Group gathered at Crowder County Park from 3-5pm on January 28th to participate in Winter Field Day. We had a number of new hams and potential hams join us on a pleasant January afternoon.



L to R: Andrew Hotchkiss KJ4WRC, Will Rowland N4GTI, Robert Duggell KQ4ERD, Paul Duggell KO4PZA, Brian Phelps KQ4FJS, Brantley West K4CBW, Steve Jenkins W4MGT, Wade Jensen KG4KAH, Sam, Ian. Not pictured: Tom Karches KQ4FKQ, Tony O'Connor K1OC, Jason Stafford

Portable Operating Group: Winter Field Day, continued



Tony O'Connor K1OC (left) Paul Duggell KO4PZA (right) make Winter Field Day QSOs.

We planned to operate an HF station and use a 2m FM station for directing hams to our shelter. I brought one of the RARS loaner stations purchased with an ARRL club grant consisting of a Yaesu FTDX10, MFJ tuner, LiFePo battery, and TN07 vertical antenna. This plan fell apart quickly when we realized that the power cable for rig was still at my house.

Fortunately, Tony K1OC was able to save the day by running home to grab his Icom. I demonstrated and my QRP CW station during the intermission. When Tony returned, we hooked his radio up to power and the antenna, and began making contacts. A few folks made Winter Field Day contacts, including some new and potential hams.



Sam checks out a portable power box.

ARRL Club Grant Loaner Station Update

by Brantley West K4CBW



L to R:

John Brier KG4AKV,
Matt Angel KN4UPT,
Joe Schroedl KO4TCY,
Will Teachey KQ4EAY,
Justin Yan KO4KUW

Orders have been placed for the majority of the loaner HF and satellite stations. Most items have been received. A few items, such as the satellite antennas, are backordered.

L to R:

Brantley West K4CBW,
Justin Yan KO4KUW,
Matt Angel KN4UPT

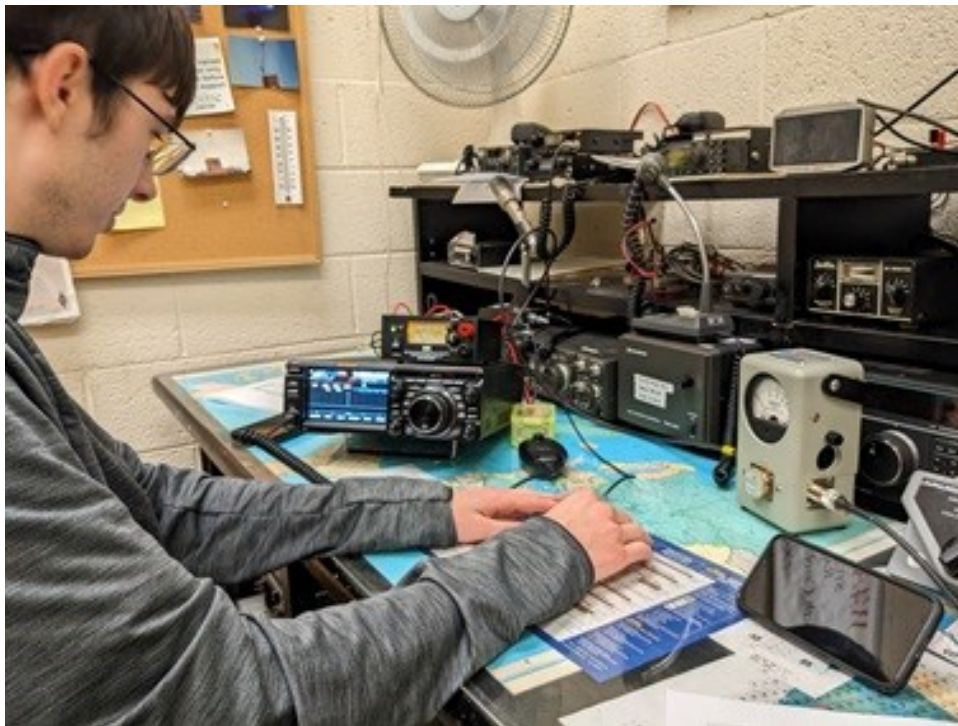


ARRL Club Grant Loaner Station Update, continued

On January 15, John Brier KG4AKV, Brantley West K4CBW, and hams from the W4ATC club at NCSU checked out the equipment. Club members took inventory, crimped on Power Pole connectors, checked power output on all bands, and made some QSOs with the transceivers. They used one of the FM satellite stations to check into the RARS net that evening.

One of the HF transceivers was used to make a ground wave contact with Carl W8WZ while he operated his station remotely from New Orleans.

Band pass filter kits were purchased as part of the grant. Several need to be built. If you are interested in helping build the kits, please contact Brantley K4CBW at k4cbw@arrl.net.



Joe Schroedl KO4TCY testing power output

K4RLC's December 2022 Adventure:

Stone Mountain State Park North Carolina

As 2022 was coming to an end, I wanted one last Summits on the Air/Parks on the Air (SOTA/POTA) activation. Stone Mountain North Carolina is around 3 hours away in Northwestern North Carolina, near the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is a huge state park of over 14,000 acres and some wilderness areas.



A little background about this year might be helpful. Earlier last year both Alanna K4AAC and I were diagnosed with COVID, which turned into long serious COVID, lasting almost 3 months of acute illness, followed by several months of recovery. We are both healthcare professionals, and were vaxed and boosted and being very cautious, so it's somewhat of a mystery what happened. One of us does have multiple medical risk factors which may have added to the complexity.

Nevertheless, we did what a lot of Americans did last winter and spring, with buying RVs and campers, and bought a Winnebago Solis camper Van. The Solis is Winnebago's smallest van, built on a Dodge Pro Master commercial chassis. What appealed to me is that you can be completely self-sufficient, Boon docking with it. It has a 140 Watt solar panel on the roof which charges two 100 amp hour AGM batteries. Off the grid, this powers a small refrigerator, house LED lights, water pump, and a ceiling fan. The Solis also has a 20-gallon propane tank, which runs a

<https://www.rars.org>



two-burner stove and a really nice furnace for cold nights. It sleeps two comfortably with a Murphy bed. Also has a sitting area with a table for dining, which can be used as a desk or an operating position for the radio. Since getting the Solis, we have really enjoyed making trips to the beaches and mountains of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. In addition to enjoying exciting POTA/SOTA activations, we have been replenished by nature's beauty and feeling safe in the fresh air.

Returning to my Stone Mountain adventure, I guess not many people camp in the middle of the week in December in the mountains. Initially I was the only person in the large campgrounds. Eventually, a couple with their dog and a trailer set up at the far end. We never had any contact. It was really eerie, especially with the pea soup fog that hung around.

The most prominent feature of Stone Mountain State Park is Stone Mountain itself. It is known as a "Dome Monadnock," as it is a large dome of granite/quartz still standing from the Devonian Age about 400 million years ago, while the earth around it has eroded over thousands of years. (Stone Mountain Georgia is the same geologic feature). This is not to be confused with the Pitons in St. Lucia, where we also operated. The Pitons are hardened magma cones, essentially volcanoes that stopped exploding, hardened into a cone shape, and the soft earth around them eroded. Stone Mountain, NC is so striking, it was named an official US "National Natural Landmark" in 1974.



The hike up Stone Mountain is considered "strenuous." They have the usual signs warning you of death and serious bodily injury. But as a seasoned wilderness backpacker, I didn't think much about it, even though I'm pushing 73 now. (In fact, I learned to rock climb here 45 years ago.) Going toward the top one encounters the usual type of trail in western North Carolina, with too many steps made of timbers

or etched into the stone. However, toward the top, there is no trail and you simply walk across the exposed rock face toward the peak. There is a single cable which can guide you, if you want to make use of it. Going up was no problem at all. I really enjoyed the views of clouds and fog in the distance, making it seem mystic and ethereal. There was no cell service and no one else was around, which made it feel very peaceful. It was like the old song “Lost in the fog on such a gray day...”



After drinking a bottle of Gatorade and eating a protein bar, I operated for a while, then decided to go back down before the rain picked up again. I didn't think much about going down as potentially being difficult, when I really should have. I was wearing state-of-the-art Vasque hiking boots - that is, state-of-the-art for 15 years ago. The technical Vibram soles had hardened, such that there was no traction on the wet rock face. Right when I consciously thought that things were going really well, I totally wiped out, falling hard and

sliding down the rock. I guess I tried to break the fall with my left hand, as it ended up underneath me, getting cut and a mild crush injury, but basically hurt like hell. I either hyperextended or dislocated a couple of fingers and lacerated the distal phalange of my ring finger. My initial reaction was to be ticked at myself for falling, then wanting to stop the bleeding quickly. With a



handkerchief, arm elevation, and pressure, the bleeding stopped in a few minutes. Nothing else seemed to be broken and, most importantly, the radios were fine. I found the cable over the rock face, and inched down in the rain, till I found the trail again

I decided that was enough mountaineering for the day. I went back to the campsite and felt lucky we upgraded to the Solis, as we felt too old for tent camping. To operate from the

campsite, I set up an inverted V for 40 M on a push-up pole, lashed with bungee cords to the lantern stand next to the picnic table. Then, ran the coax through the back window of the Solis and up to the radio, which I placed on the table inside. It was the usual configuration of the old IC – 706MKII, a MFJ portable tuner, and a Walmart lawn mower battery. This worked great, as I was soon running up pile up on 40 CW. Feeling a little tired and sore, I decided to eat some chili, then sleep on the nice soft Murphy bed the Solis.

The next morning, I wanted to hike back to the base of Stone Mountain and get a photograph of the mountain, especially the trails I had rock climbed at Stone Mountain many years prior. When you look at the photograph, in the middle of the dome, you can see a difference in the height of the rock, left of the gray area. The dome was sort of like an onion with layers, and part of the onion on the right peeled off leaving a higher area on the left. At the base was a crack going all the way up. My friend Terry was an experienced climber who was happy to get me on the mountain and into rock-climbing, which is a real joy. You jam your fingers into the crack and press your butt up against the higher wall and do “crack climbing” all the way to the top. It was a rush.

Back then, there were no cell phones for photographs and even cameras were burdensome. This time, I really wanted a picture of the dome from the bottom. That hike to the base is part of the path to the top, then goes off for a nice hike of about a mile. When I got to the field in front of the dome, where an old farm had been in the 1860s, I noticed that my left hand had swollen like sausages, especially the ring finger still with my wedding ring on it. The swelling increase was triggered by my exertion and increased heart rate. It also had started throbbing like hell and had turned purple, not a good sign. It was at this point, and only after I got some good photos of the dome, that I decided to hike back and pack up camp, even though I had the site for a few more days.

My emergency medicine training suggested I probably should have someone look at my hand. I was in the boonies with no cell service, and had to drive a while to find cell service and Google the nearest Emergency Room. Fortunately, that was only about 20 miles away in Elkin, North Carolina. Google got me to the parking lot fine. This a small hospital and there were only a few shady characters in the waiting room that looked in pretty bad shape. However, when I showed my hand to the receptionist, it got her attention and they got me back into a treatment room pretty quickly. The ER doc and her nurse came in very cheerful. When I let them know my medical background, things were pretty collegial. She definitely wanted the ring off, and said I could lose the finger if she didn't get it off. She first tried a technique of putting a rubber tourniquet under the ring with lots of KY jelly, trying to slide it off. Unfortunately, that wouldn't work. She then got the Gem saw and carefully and slowly cut through the wedding band. It took longer and was more difficult than either of us thought it would. I held a

tongue depressor under the ring so the Gem saw wouldn't cut into my finger, although it did slightly. After sawing through the ring, the ER doc took two hemostats, and clipped them on either side and worked with all her might to open the band enough to get it off, as my finger was so swollen. Her nurse started joking about doing an amputation to cheer me up. Anyway, the Doc was successful and swelling soon began to go down, with good color returning to the finger. We decided that nothing else was broken, just soft tissue injuries, and no x-rays were needed. She told me to keep the cut open and clean, and it should heal without sutures.



After my ER visit, I drove about three hours home. My wife Alanna K4AAC was in her home office doing TeleHealth when I got home. I went in the den and got in the recliner, which felt great. I hadn't told Alanna any of this, even when we had enough cell phone coverage to talk. So, she was a bit surprised when she saw my bruised, purple, swollen and cut hand. And the cut wedding band, which I presented to her. Well, she actually was pretty ticked that I hadn't let her know what had happened. The original plan had been for us to be together for the activation, but she was sick. Alanna did the usual semi-hysterical wife stuff, wanting to fuss over and take care of me. Oh, and expressing the obligatory conclusion that she "can't trust me to go off on my own anymore."

So, several weeks later, most of the soreness is gone in the back and hips, the infection has healed, but the blooming hand is still swollen and sensitive. All I can say is that I'm glad it wasn't my CW sending hand, as my "fist" is bad enough to begin with!! Overall, it was a great activation and a fun adventure which I would do it all over again.

So, the next activation this winter probably will be in a beautiful flat place at sea level near the ocean called the Great Dismal Swamp. It is between North Carolina and Virginia and originally was surveyed by George Washington to set the boundary for the two states. You really want to do this activation in the middle of winter, as the plentiful snakes and alligators are snoozing then, and in warmer seasons the mosquitoes are as big as birds.

Not sure what I would do differently, other than just not falling. I've since bought a brand-new pair of Merrill boots at REI. Of note, the Merrill brand of boots was first recommended to me by two Army Rangers at a Wilderness Medicine conference I was attending in the Rockies. I always carry a minimal amount of emergency stuff, even for a day hike, including a first-aid kit, snacks and drinks, a fire starter, an old fashioned compass, and an emergency bivouac tent from a company aptly named "Don't Die In The Woods!" There was no cell service where I fell, so you can't depend on cell phones. I guess I could've set the KX2 back up, if needed. The HT, even with a long-

er antenna, couldn't raise any of the local repeaters. But this was nothing compared to my past backpacking trips in the Idaho and Montana Wilderness, the Rockies, and on the Appalachian Trail. I guess my lesson learned was that I shouldn't take anything for granted, including the relative safety of a day hike and thinking the way I did 45 years ago when I rock climbed and felt young and invincible.

Still, it was a fun activation in a beautiful setting, and I look forward to going back to Stone Mountain State Park, NC.

73 de K4RLC Bob
January 2023



RARS Classifieds

Copied from <https://www.rars.org/classifieds.php>

The items below were listed within the last 30 days on the RARS website.

Check the RARS Classified List on the RARS website regularly for new items.

Two items for sale

Posted February 5th, 2023 by: N4TL

Contact: n4tl2@yahoo.com

Knight TR-106 Six Meter AM transceiver, receiver works,
Xmit needs work, includes 50.400 crystal. \$25

Polyphaser 50NX-C2, surge protector, not tested \$20
contact me via email N4TL2@yahoo.com

WTB Original ARRL Periodicals DVDs / CDs

Posted January 27th, 2023 by: W4WHW

Contact: tube.radio@gmail.com

I'm still looking for the following original ARRL Periodical DVDs (or QSTView CDs) to complete CD my collection: 2005-2010, 2012, 2016, 2018, or 2019.

<https://www.rars.org>

RARS Classifieds continued

FS: Rigblaster M8

Posted January 20th, 2023 by: W4WHW

Contact: tube.radio@gmail.com

West Mountain Radio Rigblaster M8 with wall wart power supply, audio cables, manual, and CD. Currently set for operation with a Kenwood HF rig. But can be easily reset to use Yaesu, Icom, Alinco and other rigs. See complete manual online at West Mountain Radio for details (<http://www.westmountainradio.com/pdf/Manual4.pdf>)

\$25

73 Bill W4WHW

Dummy Load Resistors

Posted January 17th, 2023 by: W4NPN

Contact: fbW4NPN@gmail.com

Thinning the herd: I have four 52 ohm, 70 watt carbon resistors which make excellent dummy loads. Use them individually, or in a series/parallel design to achieve 140 watt capability. These are used but quite usable - no evidence of being overstressed. Silver plated end caps. They are about 6 inches long and 1-1/4 inch diameter. \$5 each or \$15 for all four. If they are to be mailed, the buyer pays the postage.

There is also a single 27 ohm 70 watt version for \$5.

Email communication is preferred.

PayPal preferred.

Frank, fbw4nnpn@gmail.com

w4nnpn

Chapel Hill

FOR SALE or TRADE

Posted January 14th, 2023 by: WB4UFO

Contact: gfrski1948@yahoo.com

Collins 75A-4 hf rec was done by Howard Mills Exc cond 5XXX s.n. 1250.

I can be reached at 919-665-0833 and I am good on QRZ

John wb4ufo

RARS Classifieds continued

FS: Vibroplex Vibrokeyer

Posted January 14th, 2023 by: W4BOH

Contact: infomet@embargmail.com

Nice single lever paddle set for sideswiping or use with a keyer.

Brown/tan crinkle base.

Dusty, but with good chrome.

Little use, since the original owner never mastered CW.

\$65 picked up in Hillsborough or \$80 mailed to you.

Pickup in Morrisville possible.

That's well under Ebay completed sales.

Wilson

W4BOH

IC7300 Upgrade

Posted January 13th, 2023 by: K1DHH

Contact: K1DHH@yahoo.com

Hi,

I am new to the club and have an IC7300 that won't allow me to hear any volume. I spoke with an Icom Tech and they advised me I needed to update the firmware as its presently 1.30 and the functionality should return.

Unfortunately my laptop won't allow me to DL the upgrade to an SD card so I was hoping someone would be able to assist me if I provide the SD card.

Please respond via email to K1DHH@yahoo.com

I am located in Raleigh off of NC-42 and Johnston Rd.

Thank you and 73's

David

K1DHH

RARS Board Meeting

Minutes

15 November 2022

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. Eastern Time by President John, N8ZU. The following were present: K1OC, K4RGN, KB2TNR, K2HJX, AD4GX, AB4OZ, KE4PAX, KA2DEW, K4HF, KM4JRH, K4CBW, K4HM, N4TL, N1FUA.

John indicated that he had received some complaints of the meetings lasting too long and asked that everyone be thorough but brief.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for October approved.

Vice President: Tom, December meeting will be the officer's induction. There will be a presentation about Parks on the Air, with Ben Davis.

Treasurer: Greg, gave the treasurer's report. Noted 412 members. Updated the board on the cash assets and inventory, including year to date spending. Numbers include the deposit sent to the fairgrounds for Rarsfest. Taxes have been sent in.

Secretary: Mark, no report.

Director Reports:

Public Service Director: Presented volunteer numbers from 2022. Noted that Dan Sears (KD4AGQ) has resigned. He mentioned some sort of service award, like a plaque from RARS for his work.

Repeater Chair: In absentia, Alan; Things are well.

ARRL Liaison: RARS just got the approval for the NC State Convention. Is on the ARRL calendar.

Education Director: ARRL grant for equipment has been submitted.

Rarsfest Chair: Requested a Rarsfest sub-committee consisting of Greg and John. Nancy wrote a job description+, document for the fest.

Exciter Editor: Exciter is going very well, nothing new.

Food Service Chair: noticed the broken thermostat during the last hack meeting. Will have food at the next meeting.

RARS Board Meeting, continued

Net Manager: No report.

Webmaster: Requested e-mail addresses of all new directors and officers. Noted the board member descriptions on the web site. New membership form is almost complete.

Assistant Webmaster: Working on the transition with Hank.

Youth Director: Brantley and Carl are working on a grant proposal to the ARRL for two HF and one satellite radio to be used as loaner units.

Event with the Backwoods Orienteering group to set up an ARDF outing.

Director at Large: Alan; No report.

Director at Large: Kenny; [No report](#).

Director at Large: Tadd; No report.

Additional Discussions:

Greg: Initiated a discussion of the feasibility of keeping the club hotspots. The club will keep some hotspots.

Old Action Items:

To set up something for the Cub Scouts to participate in the Jamboree on the Air.

Complete

Brantley to apply for grants for a radio loaner program. Carl to help with the details.

In process. See Youth Director report.

Hank has some additions/changes to make to the new mobile form.

No update

Jeremy to make updates to the social media pages.

Complete

Transfer of Trustee (N4RAL) to Curt.

RARS Board Meeting, continued

(Carl noted that this is complete)

- Greg brought up an e-mail from Dale Pendleton, who is dispersing Bob Key's estate and wants to discuss a donation and some type of memorial. Not enough info at this time to continue the discussion.

John noted that Marty Young is preparing a voluntary advisory board for NCQP. He wants to maintain the club president on the board in the future. There will be a new POTA category this year.

New Action Items:

- Chuck to mail nominations list to Mark and Tom.
- Greg will e-mail Curt his Dix contacts.
- Carl and Brantley to submit a grant application to ARRL.
- Jeremy will write up an article for the Exciter encompassing the 2022 events.
- Jeremy will work up wording for the above mentioned award plaque.
- Nancy, Tony and Chuck to e-mail Hank with e-mail addresses to Hank.
- Hank will add the above to the rars-l.
- Nancy will schedule a Rarsfest sub-committee meeting with John and Greg.
- Contact the church to report that Richard noticed the broken thermostat during the last hack meeting.

Richard will send in food expenses to Greg before end of fiscal year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Kilmer (KM4JRH)

Secretary, RARS